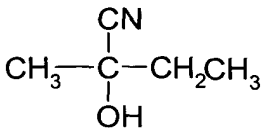
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for the production of methyl ethyl ketone cyanohydrin of the formula:



said process comprising:

~~characterized by the fact that the~~ reacting hydrocyanic acid and ~~the~~ methyl ethyl ketone ~~are reacted~~ in the presence of diethylamine as a catalyst.

2. (Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein the diethylamine is introduced at a rate of 1×10^{-3} to 5×10^{-3} mol per mol of hydrocyanic acid or methyl ethyl ketone, whichever is in the lowest molar concentration ~~reagent too little~~.

3. (Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to claim , wherein the diethylamine is introduced at a rate of 1.5×10^{-3} to 3×10^{-3} mol per mol of hydrocyanic acid or methyl ethyl ketone, whichever is in the lowest molar concentration ~~reagent too little~~.

4. (Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is conducted at ~~in~~ atmospheric pressure.

5. (Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is conducted at a temperature of -20 to 40°C.

6. (Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 5, wherein the reaction is conducted at a temperature of -10 to 30°C.

7. (Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is

conducted at a pH from 7 to 9.

8. (Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 7, wherein the reaction is conducted at a pH of 7.5 to 8.5.

9. (Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is conducted with an HCN/methyl ethyl ketone molar ratio of between 0.90 and 1.10~~, in particular between 0.95 and 1.05~~.

10. (Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is conducted for a period of 1 to 4 hours~~, in particular from 1 to 2 hours~~.

11. (New): A process according to claim 9, wherein the reaction is conducted with an HCN/methyl ethyl ketone molar ratio of between 0.95 and 1.05.

12. (New): A process according to claim 10, wherein the reaction is conducted for a period of 1 to 2 hours.

13. (New): A process according to claim 2, wherein the reaction is conducted at a temperature of -20 to 40°C, a pH from 7 to 9, and at an HCN/methyl ethyl ketone molar ratio of between 0.90 and 1.10.

14. (New): A process according to claim 3, wherein the reaction is conducted at a temperature of -10 to 30°C, a pH from 7.5 to 8.5, and at an HCN/methyl ethyl ketone molar ratio of between 0.95 and 1.05.